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AMERICAN ART NOTES.



LITERARY talent seems to be quite dependent on the artist's illustrations to bring out the strong features, and often a fine illustration gives a clearer conception of the author's ideas than the author has "writ down."

A movement is on foot to erect a monument to General George Sykes, who is buried at West Point.

The demand for another art store in New York has been met, and Messrs. Blakeslee & Co. have located at 218 Fifth avenue.

M. Bartholdi says that, so far as he knows, the great statue of Liberty is the first example of a copper exterior mounted on iron trusses.

A bill for the establishment of a National Art Gallery, under the patronage of the United States government, is being talked about in New York.

Strohecker finds that the orange-red to leather-colored bricks made from Hainstadt clay owe their color to a slight amount of oxide of cerium, which they contain.

"Art in Leather" will be the title of a new book to be published early next year. The writer of the work will be materially assisted by Mr. Charles R. Yandell, of New York.

Mr. Frank T. Lent, the original proprietor of The Studio, is living at Colorado Springs. He still keeps up his interest in the fine arts, and occasionally writes for various magazines.

A statue of General Halleck has been erected in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. It is eight feet high and stands on a base six feet square. It is cut from Rhode Island granite.

By the will of Mrs. Cornelia M. Stewart, widow of A. T. Stewart, it would seem that a large portion of the great art collection will adorn the walls of the proposed seminary for women at Garden City.

Mr. Wedmore, of London, is still absent in France, which has caused some delay in the publication of his book for collectors, on "Whistler's Etchings;" but it may be issued during the present month.

The American Art Galleries of New York will

be made attractive this season with many strong exhibitions both of native and foreign pictures. At present time the galleries contain a fine collection of French paintings.

The once very prominent French sculptor, Eugène Holle, is dead quite suddenly. He produced many fine portrait busts and executed the bronze statue of General Foy, at Ham, which is much admired by critics.

"The Book of the Tile Club," a holiday volume, with text by Messrs. F. Hopkinson Smith and Edward Strahan, and adorned pictorially after the fashion of the club, will be published by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

Lincrusta Walton still holds the esteem of the mural decorators, and every month some new and valuable feature is added to this material, either in design or color. One of the best qualities of Lincrusta Walton is that it improves and mellows with age.

The Boston Terra Cotta Company has executed a number of relief heads for the Young Men's Library Association, Buffalo, New York. The modelling of these excellent examples of terra cotta is the work of Mr. Truman H. Bartlett, the sculptor, of Boston.

The artists of St. Louis contemplate forming a club similar to the Paint and Clay Club, of Boston. Mr. Edgar J. Bissell, of the St. Louis School of Fine Arts, is one of the prime movers in the matter. There are artists enough in St. Louis to establish an interesting and valuable club of this kind.

There will soon be seen in New York, at the Metropolitan Art Museum, a collection of thirty or forty old masters from a noted Paris collection. In the collection will be fine examples of the Dutch School, several pictures of Rembrandt, Reubens, and Van Dyck, and works of other great masters.

In the "Life and Letters of Joel Barlow, LL. D.," by Charles Burr Todd, there occurs the following paragraph: "His verse first gave American poetry a standing abroad. His prose writings contributed largely to the triumph of Republicanism in 1800. He was the first American cosmopolite * * * * He was the godfather of the steamboat and canal, and sponsor, with Jefferson, of our present magnificent system of internal improvements,

while, had he been permitted to carry out his grand idea of a national university, it is safe to say that American art, letters, science and mechanics would now be on a much more advanced and satisfactory footing."

The endolithic marbles will soon be thoroughly introduced in Boston, the Murdock Parlor Grate Company having already placed several elegant mantels in this city. It is not an improbable thing that the marbles will be publicly exhibited at the Grate Company's store, on Beacon street, this winter.

Mr. Frank Hill Smith is working on the plans of a Casino, to be erected in Green Bay, Florida. The designs are drawn in a broad, artistic manner, and are the most extensive for comfort and elegance of any known in this country. It is estimated that it will require \$350,000 to erect and finish the structure.

A new hall is to be erected by Mr. Charles R. Yandell, of New York, on the corner of 19th street and Fifth avenue. The hall will measure about 90x28 feet, and Mr. Yandell will dedicate it to art. Such a hall or gallery is needed in New York, and the artists will doubtless take great interest in the enterprise.

Mr. Ephraim Keyser, the Baltimore sculptor, who modelled the De Kalb monument, is engaged at present on a bust of Cardinal Gibbons. The Cardinal is giving the sculptor sittings at the archiepiscopal residence. Mr. Keyser has sent to New York busts of Mr. Isaac Brooks, of Mr. Sindey Luska, the well-known author, and of Sidney Lanier, the poet.

The Trent Art Tile Company has consolidated with the United States Tile Company, of Indianapolis, with factory at Trenton, N. J. By the first of the year, or possibly in December, the New England agents, the Murdock Parlor Grate Company, of Boston will make a fine display of enamels as well as relief work examples, from this new and important combination.

A statue of Schiller has been unveiled in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia. The statue consists of three main features—a base of gray polished granite, five feet high, approached by two steps, a pedestal, six feet high, of bronze, and, lastly, the statue, nine feet high, making the entire structure twenty feet in height. Mr. Henry Manger, of Philadelphia, was the sculptor.

One of the most attractive catalogues recently issued comes to us from Messrs. Smith & Anthony, of Boston. In their usual manner they seek the most artistic methods of the day in illustrating their literature, and the covers, which are in water-colors, are rich in design and tints, while the text and cuts are fit for any magazine published.

Messrs. Frederick Keppel & Co. have secured a set of Millet's etched works, which is said to be complete. These etchings were purchased from M. Lebrun, a friend of Alfred Sensier, and the editor of the catalogue of Millet's etchings which is appended to the French edition of Sensier's "Life of Millet." This catalogue includes all the artist's work with the

needle, and mentions the unique trial impressions taken by Millet himself, some of them printed in color taken from his palette. Mr. Keppel has secured these unique proofs and early impressions from all the plates described, and the collection will be exhibited in New York very soon.

Terra cotta is growing more and more in favor among architects as a material for exterior construction, and with the demand comes a finer quality of design and finish. The durability, beauty of color and capabilities of this material render it one of the most important for exterior adornment, and when used as an ornament, or in simple shapes, it easily harmonizes with most of the natural stones.

The announcement of the visit of Munkacz, to this country, is made, and he will probably arrive before our readers see these lines. His "Christ Before Pilate" will be exhibited in the Tabernacle, in Twenty-third street, New York, and probably with this will be shown very many of his paintings now owned in this country. He will paint a number of portraits during his stay here.

Subscriptions are invited to a History of the New York Academy of Sciences, 1817-1886, in preparation by Prof. Herman Le Roy Fairchild, recording secretary. It will make a handsome octavo volume of about 140 pages, illustrated with portraits of the five presidents of the society and of other officers, with engravings of buildings. The price will be \$2.50. Professor Fairchild's address is 102 East 32d street.

Mr. George M. Pullman is a firm advocate of American woods in their natural state, as an article of use and ornamentation. His collection of woods from all parts of the country is very complete, and the material used in his travelling coaches is chosen very carefully for effective combination of colors, while the skilful handling of the material brings out the beauty of the grain shades, making them richer than any paint could possibly do.

Among the valuable art calendars for 1887 Messrs. John A. Lowell & Co. display a number of interesting examples. One in particular, which must become very popular, illustrates the perfect finish and skill of the well-directed ruling machine. The subject consists of two or more birds perched on some apple boughs. These are tinted with transparent wash water-colors and are delicate and attractive. Other simple incidents, in which figures, land and sea scapes are used, show that the art of modern steel engraving can carry color and modelling without stiffness. The best artists in the country contribute their work to this concern.

The name of Sharples, or Sharpless, recalls the fact that many of his pastel drawings—the artist's originals, so to speak, from which he worked—were preserved "down South." A large number of them were cut from their frames and the prized bundles buried, owing to the fear of an inroad of troops during the Rebellion. When recovered it was found that there were the frames inscribed with names, but no one had thought to mark the pictures. Identification was thus only conjectural,

and though many were so recovered, a very considerable number were not. For some years the portrait of the wife of Judge Cushing figured as Martha Washington, the critics accepting a youthful matron of thirty in place of one of nearly seventy years.

It may interest American tourists to know that the new Luxembourg galleries are now open. They are well lighted, but are too small for much extension of the collection. The removal of the great groups by Barye and the pictures by Millet, though the latter were not important examples of the master, leave a gap which the most recent acquisitions scarcely fill. Rodin's wild figure of St. John, with the grand head, makes a very sensible impression in the sculpture gallery.

The tint print which we present as an inset this month, is from a drawing of a scene in Holland, by Mr. Louis K. Harlow. The landscape is exceedingly refined and delicate in conception and treatment, and the single figure in the foreground adds an interesting picturesque quality to the composition. Mr. Harlow is one of the most accomplished of our younger water colorists, and works of his that have lately been etched by Messrs. Klackner & Co., New York, show a fine artistic sense and a remarkable facility and freshness of treatment.

Three announcements are made of interest to the admirers of Randolph Caldecott. The most important is a personal memoir of his early art career, written, with the assistance of his representatives, by Mr. Henry Blackburn, with one hundred and seventy illustrations, many of them fac-similes of sketches and decorative designs never before published. We are also promised by Messrs. Macmillan a small quarto volume containing his illustrations to "Jack and the Bean Stalk;" and, lastly, an edition on fine paper of his illustrations to Washington Irving's "Old Christmas" and "Bracebridge Hall," by which he first established his reputation.

The prospectus of the Art School of the Metropolitan Museum, New York, announces that during the season of 1886-87, John Ward Stimson will have charge of the day class in color, composition, free-hand drawing, and drawing from the life, and Olin Warner, of the sculpture modelling class. Mr. Arthur Tuckerman is teacher of architectural draughtsmanship; Julien B. Lamar, of chasing and repoussé work in metals; Lucas Baker, of perspective, construction, and industrial design; Dr. Edward Ayers, of anatomy, physiology and expression; Mr. Stiepevich, of window and wall decoration; Ernest J. Gilles, of cabinet drawing and interior designing; A. Loehner, of decorative clay modelling, and W. E. Volz, of mechanical glass.

Some of the most original ideas in the use of animal skins have recently been shown by Mr. Franklin Crosby, at 344 Washington street, Boston. There are many combinations and varieties of fur that admit of some beautiful effects. There is one with a centre of black bear skin, bordered with Siberian wolf, which is interesting and agreeable in contrasts. Others, of Hudson Bay wolf, tiger, fox and the silky fur-hair of the Russian dog, are

mounted with tasteful results. Mr. Crosby states that the demand for costly and rare skins is as great as the call for antique Persian rugs and large Oriental carpets.

Mr. C. Klackner has just published the most important etching ever brought out in this country. It is by Hamilton Hamilton, and reproduces the tender sentiments of "The Communicants," by Jules Breton, the picture that sold for \$45,000 at the Morgan sale, and attracted so much attention at that time. The etching is on a 26-inch plate and is exquisitely etched and printed, all of the color and poetry of the original being preserved. The material and spiritual were never more tenderly expressed in black and white.

The distinctly literary flavor of the forthcoming Scribner's Magazine will be maintained by the editors and publishers very carefully; while, on the other hand, the new periodical will be kept free from that class of articles which makes the specific gravity of a magazine too formidable for the general reading public. The illustrated matter will leave nothing to be desired, and although there will be no scarcity of it, pictures will be kept in that due subordination to print, which has seemed lately a policy as desirable as it has been rare in our leading illustrated monthlies.

A large number of the members of the Archaeological Institute of America have organized themselves into a committee (co-operating with the University of Pennsylvania) to produce in New York during the coming winter the Greek play performed by the students of the University at Philadelphia last year. The date for this interesting representation will be announced shortly, with other particulars for the information of the public. It is to be hoped that the costuming will be somewhere near like that of the ancient Greeks, and that some other fabric than cambric will be used.

"Art Studies," a handsome publication issued by Messrs. C. Hennecke & Co., of Milwaukee, is a valuable addition to the handbooks of illustrated art objects for students and workers in all art industries. It contains an essay on "The Education of the Hand" and numerous quotations from prominent practical art men on industrial education. The illustrations consist of a large variety of objects that are used in art schools to instruct and guide the students in drawing and modelling. Both the antique and modern are copiously pictured, and the casts of these are to be obtained of this house, which shows some of the finest productions in their kind that we know of.

The Tavern Club, of Boston, a purely social organization, of which Mr. W. D. Howells is president, and leading Boston artists, authors and musicians are members, has evidently been inspired by the well-remembered caricature exhibition of the Paint and Clay Club, of the same city, two years ago, and will hold a somewhat similar exhibition in December. Every member of the club will be represented by a specimen of his own artistic work,

or, in default of that, by a bottle of champagne. It is very likely that the exhibition will be somewhat more incoherent than the Incoherent Exhibitions frequently gotten up by the art students of Paris. The prizes will be awarded by a committee selected for their special ignorance of art.

At the auction sale of the pictures of Lord St. Leonards, in England, Nov. 6, a Teniers portrait brought \$5,000; a picture by Hoppner or Reynolds, \$3,575; a Copley-Fielding water color, \$4,300; two examples of Metz, \$1,525 and \$1,305 respectively; a portrait by Lely, \$500.

M. Emile Rénouf, the noted French artist who came over with the French guests to witness the Liberty statue ceremonies, has taken a studio in the Sherwood building, New York, and will remain during the winter. He has already secured orders for several portraits of prominent people.

The fourteenth semi-annual exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, is now open. The loan collection contains examples of the work of Carl Marr, Dannat, Lerolle, Van Marcke, F. D. Millet, Lefebvre, Le Roux, Dupre, Inness, Jules Breton, Josef Israels, Mauve, Madrazo, Vibert, Clairin, Boughton, and others.

The contract for the Chicago Grant monument will probably be awarded to Mr. Lewis T. Rebisso, who has been given the first prize for the best design offered in competition. The sculptor is an Italian, who came to this country a few years ago. He was a tombstone cutter by trade, but has graduated from that into the profession of sculptor and teacher of modelling. The proposed statue is to be equestrian, and will stand in the park on the north side in Chicago. It will crown a sort of two-story archway, spanning a street underneath.

There have been very many valuable additions recently made to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. One of the most important is the collection obtained in Assyria and Babylon by Dr. William H. Ward, editor of *The Independent*. This contains many hundred clay tablets from the earliest times down to the age of Darius, including

hymns, legal documents, contracts, wills and business documents of various nature, two ancient Egyptian divining bowls, a collection of Assyrian and Babylonian seals and other antiquities, the whole collection being only surpassed by that in the British Museum. An Egyptian collection sent by Maspero, of Cairo, finer in many respects than that in the New York Historical Society, has been received, and also one hundred Mexican idols and thirty-three reproductions in terra-cotta of the Tanagra statuettes.

The Grolier Club, of New York, has made out an attractive programme for the year. Nov. 8th there will be an exhibition of wood engravings of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, with a lecture by Mr. W. J. Linton, and on Dec. 13th an exhibition of Oriental books will occur, Mr. H. Shugio making the address. The spring exhibition will be of early printed books, on March 15th, and of book illustrations in America on April 19th. At the opening of the first-named exhibition Mr. Brayton Ives will make the address, and it will be delivered by Mr. Lewis Frazer, at the opening of the second.

The club house of the Algonquin Club, of Boston, will, when completed, be one of the handsomest structures of its kind in this country. A plan by Architect McKim, of the firm of McKim, White & Mead, of New York, has been accepted. Work will be commenced immediately and the house will be completed in about eighteen months' time. The building will stand in Commonwealth avenue, and have a frontage of one hundred feet. It is designed in the style of the French renaissance, and its façade will be constructed of limestone from the same quarry that furnished the stone for Cornelius Vanderbilt's palace in New York. A portico shelters the main entrance, and on either side commodious bay windows extend to the height of the building. An artistically-designed colonnade surmounts the verge of the roof. The first three stories will be finished in oak. The general dining-room will be on the fourth floor and finished in solid mahogany. There will be besides, twelve private dining-rooms.

